

Message Text

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ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 INR-07 USIA-06 /029 W

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R 151555Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6490

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SEDU, XT, NL

SUBJECT: CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES: NETHERLANDS

REF: DEPARTMENT'S A-5233 OF AUGUST 5, 1975

1. WE FULLY SHARE VIEWS IN REF AIRGRAM AS TO RELEVANCE OF MOOD AND TRENDS IN EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES AND OF IMPORTANCE OF KEEPING UP TO DATE ON POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS, INCLUDING RADICALIZATION OF STUDENT BODIES, LACK OF INTELLECTUAL PLURALISM AND POSSIBLE DIMINUTION OF ACADEMIC FREEDOM.

2. EMBASSY HAS, THROUGH ITS YOUTH COMMITTEE, MADE ONGOING EFFORT TO FOCUS ON THE DUTCH UNIVERSITIES OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS. THE PICTURE THAT EMERGES IS THAT IN SOME CASES UNIVERSITY EXPERIENCE OF THE INCREASING NUMBER OF YOUTH WHO ARE PURSUING HIGHER EDUCATION INVOLVES SUBSTANTIAL EXPOSURE TO AND INVOLVEMENT IN POLITICALLY ORIENTED ACTIVITIES. SMALL THOUGH THE NETHERLANDS IS GEOGRAPHICALLY, THERE SEEMS TO BE A CONSIDERABLE SPREAD BETWEEN UNIVERSITIES WHERE LEFTIST POLITICAL TENDENCIES AMONG STUDENTS ARE VISIBLY HIGH (E.G. AMSTERDAM) AND OTHERS WHERE POLITICAL LIFE AMONG STUDENTS SEEMS TO BE ONLY A BY PRODUCT OF SERIOUS ACADEMIC WORK (E.G. ROTTERDAM).

3. DUE TO RECENT TURNOVER OF PERSONNEL IN THIS EMBASSY, INCLUDING THOSE OFFICERS BEST KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT UNIVERSITY SCENE, WE ARE NOT IN BEST POSITION TO FURNISH FULL ASSESSMENT AT THIS TIME. WE WILL, HOWEVER, MAKE SERIOUS EFFORT TO

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OBSERVE AND FOLLOW DEVELOPMENTS AT DUTCH UNIVERSITIES IN THE

COMING ACADEMIC YEAR AND PLAN TO PROVIDE IN DEPTH REPORT
IN DUE COURSE.
BROWN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: UNIVERSITIES, UNIVERSITY EDUCATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975THEHA04121
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750283-0159
From: THE HAGUE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750847/aaaaboxl.tel
Line Count: 64
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION CU
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE A-5233
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 JUN 2003 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <09 JUN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES: NETHERLANDS
TAGS: SEDU, XT, NL
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006